

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A network device, comprising:
 - a first functional printed circuit board located in a first portion of the network device;
 - a second functional printed circuit board located in a second portion of the network device, wherein the second functional printed circuit board is reverse orientated within the network device with respect to the first functional printed circuit board;
 - a first mid-plane connected electrically to the first functional printed circuit board for routing electrical signals generated by said first board;
 - a second mid-plane electrically connected to the second functional printed circuit board for routing electrical signals generated by said second board; and
 - a switch fabric card connected to both the first and second mid-planes to provide electrical connectivity therebetween.
2. (Original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the first and second functional printed circuit boards comprise forwarding cards.
3. (Original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the first and second functional printed circuit boards comprise cross-connection cards.
4. (Original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the first and second functional printed circuit boards comprise universal port cards.
5. (Previously Amended) The network device of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a third functional printed circuit board located in the first portion of the network device and connected to the first mid-plane; and
 - a fourth functional printed circuit board located in the second portion of the network device and connected to the second mid-plane, wherein the third functional printed circuit board is reverse orientated within the network device with respect to the fourth functional printed circuit board.
6. (Previously Amended) The network device of claim 5, wherein the first and second functional printed circuit boards comprise forwarding cards and the third and fourth functional printed circuit boards comprise cross-connection cards.

7. (Previously Amended) The network device of claim 5, wherein the first, second, third and fourth functional printed circuit boards comprise forwarding cards.

8. (Previously Amended) The network device of claim 5, wherein the first, second, third and fourth functional printed circuit boards comprise cross-connection cards.

9. (Original) The network device of claim 4, wherein the first, second, third and fourth functional printed circuit boards comprise cross-connection cards.

10. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 1, wherein the first portion comprises a top portion of a chassis of the network device and the second portion comprises a bottom portion of the network device.

11. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 1, wherein the first portion comprises a top, front portion of a chassis of the network device and the second portion comprises a bottom, front portion of the network device.

12. (Currently Amended) A network device, comprising:

a first plurality of functional printed circuit boards located in a first portion of the network device;

a second plurality of functional printed circuit boards located in a second portion of the network device, wherein the second plurality of functional printed circuit boards are reverse orientated within the network device with respect to the first plurality of function functional printed circuit boards,

a first mid-plane electrically connected to the first plurality of functional printed circuit boards to route electrical signals generated thereby;

a second mid-plane electrically connected to the second plurality of functional printed circuit boards to route electrical signals generated thereby; and

a switch fabric card connected to both the first and second mid-planes to provide electrical connectivity therebetween.

13. (Previously Amended) The network device of claim 12, wherein the first portion comprises a top portion of the network device and the second portion comprises a bottom portion of the network device.

14. (Previously Amended) The network device of claim 12, wherein the first portion comprises a top, front portion of the network device and the second portion comprises a bottom, front portion of the network device.

15. (Previously Amended) The network device of claim 12, wherein the first portion comprises a top, back portion of the network device and the second portion comprises a bottom, back portion of the network device.

16. (Previously Amended) The network device of claim 12, wherein the first plurality of functional printed circuit boards includes a first plurality of forwarding cards and wherein the second plurality of functional printed circuit boards includes a second plurality of forwarding cards.

17. (Previously Amended) The network device of claim 12, wherein the first plurality of functional printed circuit boards includes a first plurality of cross-connection cards and wherein the second plurality of functional printed circuit boards includes a second plurality of cross-connection cards.

18. (Previously Amended) The network device of claim 12, wherein the first plurality of functional printed circuit boards further includes a first plurality of cross-connection cards and wherein the second plurality of functional printed circuit boards further includes a second plurality of cross-connection cards.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled).